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Declaration  
9-25-01  
PATENT

Docket No. 1002.2.72

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Larry Stevens

Serial No.: 09/228,325

Filed: January 11, 1999

For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR BONDING AN ACRYLIC SURFACE TO A FRAME**

Examiner: Michael Chambers

RECEIVED  
SEP 20 2001  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700  
Group A  
Unit: 371

DECLARATION OF S. CURTIS NYE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.132

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

I, S. Curtis Nye, hereby declare:

1. I am a Research Technician at Lifetime Products, Inc. (hereinafter "Lifetime Products"). I have been employed by Lifetime Products for about 5.5 years. During the past two years, I have worked on the research and development of basketball backboard systems.

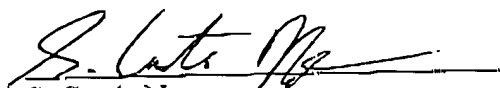
2. In October 1999, Lifetime Products began selling acrylic basketball backboards fabricated with elastomeric adhesive to bond the acrylic backboard to the frame. Prior to this time, Lifetime Products used double-sided tape to fabricate acrylic basketball backboards.

3. Lifetime Products recently became aware of two commercially available acrylic basketball backboards manufactured by Huffy Sports, a division of Huffy Corporation, that utilize an elastomeric adhesive to bond the acrylic backboard to the frame. These are a metal frame unit, model number 9H909, and a blow molded frame unit, model number 74069. Lifetime Products purchased these products for evaluation in July and August 2001. Prior to this time, Huffy Sports utilized double-sided tape to bond the acrylic backboard to the frame.

4. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that

these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dated this 10 day of September, 2001

  
S. Curtis Nye